

Statutory Declaration

I, Cain, Tommy, Tasiujaq, 1937 
(Name, first name, address, birth date)

I do solemnly declare that,

I do solemnly declare, meeting with Michelle de Champlain, investigation agent from the Viens Commission, on August 20, 2018, in Tasiujaq.

Q1 : Mr Tommy Cain. I know you have two things to share with us: police, health... I mean, it's probably the clinic and the social services. I will have to ask you if you know the date of the event... the best you can, just to make sure I can situate the event. And I have a last question: All of the services that you want to share, is it here in Tasiujaq?

R1: Yes, all to do with the clinic.

Q2: If you want to start with the police, or health, or social services, it's up to you.

R2: He will start with the social services.

It's been many years that we have social workers working in our community, staying in our community. But before there was this stable social worker, there used to be a social worker that used to arrive regularly. Today's situation about social services: we do have them in town, but it makes us think... What is their responsibility, social services?

Q3: So, you think that the social services don't know what they have to do, their mandate, their job? Is that what I understand?

R3: It's because they know they have to help and do some responsibility. They know they say that, but the action is never there.

Q4: Can you give me an example of what they're saying... but they don't give the services?

Declarer signature _____

Declared before me, _____

at _____ on _____

R4: It's like they promise that they're going to come and help him, but after some duration, they're waiting for him to forget that he needs service. But this is not a correct way of serving, rendering services, when they're supposed to render services to me. Especially after I had lost my wife... Since I lost my wife, I need my house to be clean, I need to be organized. And I have no capability because I also had (...)6:21... and that's why he's wearing a mitt, because one of his veins... circulation isn't functioning properly anymore. They're supposed to render family help services, but they have not.

Q5: Did they tell you that they would give you that kind of services, in the beginning?

R5: Yes, he has been saying that he needed a family helper.

Q6: Did they offer you someone to do that?

R6: Yes, they do it, and their family helper stops. It doesn't work continually.

Q7: What was the year that you asked that?

R7: It was two years after the death of his late wife. He was receiving regular help from his children. After a while, he was starting to be by himself, when needing help, but nobody to help. So, he asked the social workers if he can get a family helper. 2006.

Q8: When did they stop coming to give you help?

R8: He still thought... or had an expectation that person was still going to come. The supervisor called, saying she quit, or he quit.

Q9: How many times, after 2006?

R9: It's never regular. It's never regular, that's why he needs to complain about it.

Q10: And now, there's nobody who comes from the social services?

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

R10: No.

Q11: Did you call the social services to ask them for help, since you didn't receive any help from them?

R11: Yes, he's always notifying them, using the translators. They give empty promises, that "we will come", but they never come.

Q12: They never come, okay. How do you feel about the fact they told you they were going to come but they don't?

R12: Disappointed. He gets disappointed each time, very deeply. It gets really disappointing, to the point that you don't want to say anything, anymore, of the need he has.

Because I'm not using my authority to abuse them, I don't do that.

Q13: I guess what you mentioned is that you need different kinds of services, like doing... clean the house... Do you have other stuff that you needed?

R13: To help maintain... to keep the house clean. Dusting, washing, doing the washing of the laundry. Now, it's even a little darker because it's not clean.

Q14: Do you need some services for yourself? I mean, physical services.

R14: Yes, he needs to be bathed. He needs to be washed and bathed. Because there's no family helper, he tried to clean himself. He tries to make his own meals, when he has food to cook. He tries to do that.

Q15: Is it difficult for you to clean yourself and cook for yourself?

R15: It's not easy at all.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

Q16: I understand the help that you need. I guess what you recommend is that someone... Because what I do understand is that there's no... There's anybody who does that kind of service, here? The social services?

R16: They do make it available, but each person just quit, each time. So, I asked him if it's because they're making small money, and he said: "I think it's because they're not making enough money. Then, they get discouraged and just stop."

Q17: I guess that your situation, as an elder... you're not the only one in the community who has to live with that.

R17: Yes. Her hears sometimes about the other elders that are not receiving service.

Q18: If I ask if you have any recommendation with that situation, what would it be?

R18: If there would be a person to work as a family helper, and be fair in coming each time, that would improve the system a lot. Even if their payment should be increased to encourage them to work and give us service.

Q19: Usually, is it... The people that he met, doing that kind of services... is it more non-Native or Native people?

R19: It's only Inuit that works as a family helper.

Q20: Only Inuit, okay. Thank you for your recommendations. Is there something else that you wanted to share about the social services?

R20: He's less burdened now since his son... His son lives in Aupaluk, where we were. He came here to help him out. That's [REDACTED] brother. [REDACTED], the guy we met at the (...)19:09. Since he came here to help him out, his needs are less... now that he's here to help him.

Another problem is that he did not receive payment from the social services, because he is his child.

Q21: Thank you for this sharing about the social services. I'm very sorry to hear that, because I understand it's not easy for you to live with that.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

R21: Even though he knows he has a right to have these services, he tried to keep in peace, because he had to keep in peace.

Q22: He's a strong man. A strong man, but he needs help, too! Do you want to continue with the police or the clinic?

R22: Police. It's been many years now, that we have the police services. They have tried to improve to our needs as Native people, here. But I think they have to be... they have to learn more about our lifestyle. Each time they come here, they should come and see the authority of the municipality, or the community, to go and see what their needs are. They don't do that at all.

Q23: The police officers? They have to go...

R23: They have their responsibilities to work as police, yes, but they don't come enough to have relationship with the community.

Q24: Okay, I understand. So, that's how you feel when you see the police officers in the community, since they exist?

R24: Yes. Our values and our culture, that is why I mentioned they don't even come and see the authority of the community. Because in the past, we had a way of... We had our role, and we had our way of dealing with people who have problems. Elders would meet the person and try to find a solution to the problem. This is not practiced anymore.

Q25: I understand. By the way, you're not the only one who told me that in the Ungava Bay. What I understand is that... You explained that, at times... times before... the problems, the behavior of a person, was treated differently than the police officers do? Do you understand what I mean?

R25: Yes, you're right. It's absolutely out of question that they don't...

Q26: As an elder, how do you feel about the fact that the police officers don't go get any advice from the elders or even the authorities in the community?

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

R26: I feel that they're so... I feel that they need to support and have questions for the community, but they don't ask. I know they have to do a... How do you say? Running in the municipality, to see if everything is okay.

Q27: Their runs.

R27: Their runs, yes. I know that they have to do their runs in the municipality, but I also see that they just go for a ride too, outside of the municipality, when they have responsibilities here in the municipality.

Q28: How do you think that the police should work, in an Inuit community?

R28: Because they also work through guidelines, they have to be more careful and work with their guidelines properly, because they're also distorting our life guideline, if I can say that. When we see them out of range of their jurisdiction, we don't feel comfortable. When they're out of their jurisdiction.

Q29: Okay. And if a police officer will go see you... As an elder, as a leader, what kind of recommendation would you say to him, to do a proper job?

R29: If a police officer would come here and ask that, I would automatically tell them not to misuse, or abuse, the system and the people.

Q30: Okay. Do you have examples for me... that I will understand exactly what kind of... A specific example, that the police should do with the members of the community.

R30: I feel like they are working to **(offline)32:31** with our mentality, our philosophy. They don't search for our philosophy, for us to support them. I think they should be more informative too, of their roles, in the communities.

Q31: Do you think that the police officers should be more friendly with people, go see people?

R31: Yes, very much. Go meet the person, yes.

Q32: Yes, I understand. Since when is the police here, in Tasiujaq?

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

R32: It's the same for all the communities, in the early 80's. We had SQ, and then they were replaced by KRPF in the early 80's.

Q33: Early 80's? Okay. And you felt that the police, today, are still not... get... how to reach the Inuit.

R33: Yes, that's what he was saying in the beginning when he was starting.

That's it about the police situation.

Q34: Okay, thank you very much.

R34: It's been many years now, too, that we have a clinic, physical clinic. But I feel like there have to be improvements in their services. Because we go there to have service, and then it's like ... we have to... in the same time... we have to be careful to them.

Q35: What do you mean?

R35: It's like they're not competent. Because it's like they're not competent, we have to be understanding to them. Do you understand what I mean?

Q36: Yes. Do you mean that they miss... I understand by incompetent, you mean that... Are they young, do they miss experience at the clinic?

R36: Yes, inexperience. It's only because of inexperience they're acting like that.

Q37: Okay, so what do they say when you go there and you have a cough, for example... a cold, or something? What do they say to you?

R37: He would tell them that he has a bad cold and... they look like they don't know what to do. They're like in a blank situation before they're able to serve him. They don't really know where to start.

Q38: And when they serve him, what do they do?

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

R38: They do their best treating him.

Q39: Tricking?

R39: Treating. Because he's not capable to walk to the clinic, they promised that they're going to have home visits, but they never arrived.

Q40: How does it fell when you see that a nurse – I guess he's talking about a nurse – how do you fell when you see a nurse that seems to not know what to do?

R40: I worry that... is he going to be able to treat me for the problem that I need to have treatment for.

As soon as we feel that they're not really taking care of us, doubting comes right away.

Q41: Just tell me if it's not true, what I'm saying, but does it feel like you don't trust the nurse, you don't trust the services, you don't trust the diagnostic, something like that?

R41: Yes, that's true. The diagnostic that's supposed to be there, as a whole, is not there.

Q42: Is there a doctor who comes here?

R42: Yes.

Q43: He's here how many... What's the frequency of his visits?

R43: A week. Usually, when they come to the communities, they're here for a week, from Monday to Friday.

Q44: A week per month, or...?

R44: Yes.

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

Q45: is it always the same doctor?

R45: Yes. There's a black doctor that comes here but he'd like to see a white doctor.

Q46: Why is that?

R46: Because he thinks they can do better.

Q47: Okay! Do you trust the doctor, even if he's black?

R47: He didn't really trust him in the beginning, but he's learning more and more how he functions.

Q48: So, he begins to trust him, because he's here all the time. It's the same doctor. Is the nurse always changing are is it stable?

R48: Sometimes, they're mostly stable. Some leave right away, those...

Q49: It's another question: The ones that are stable here, do you think that they are more competent?

R49: Yes, they're much more competent.

Q50: So, the ones that come and go: you don't trust them. Are they young, when they do that?

R50: Yes, they're mostly young, the ones that leave.

Q51: Young nurses. Inexperienced. I understand. If I ask you a recommendation to solve that kind of problem, which kind of recommendation would you like to say?

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant

R51: This is a difficult question to answer, because this medical personnel, they also have families that they need to see, too. We need to find a solution to this type of problem, but it's hard to know what solution it is.

Q52: I understand. It's true. It's hard, but we need to find a solution. For sure!

R52: Yes, there are solutions. We have got to find solutions to these problems that are not going to be like this forever.

Q53: Do you have anything else to share about these issues?

R53: No.

Q54: Thank you very much, Mr Cain.

-FIN-

X

Enquêteur

X

Déclarant